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## The Bison, March 5, 2021

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# ‘The impact of live theater is immediate’

## Spring Sing 2021 to open to public audience

**GABRIEL HUFF**  
asst. news editor

**EMMA JONES**  
news editor

Dr. Steven Frye, director of Spring Sing, announced Tuesday that this year’s show, “Twice Upon a Time,” will now be open for the public to attend.

The Arkansas Department of Health approved a live audience to attend at a limited capacity with campus COVID-19 guidelines in place. Spring Sing will be held April 15-17 in the George S. Benson Auditorium.

Audience seating will require masks and social distancing and will allow family groups of two to six people to sit together, allowing approximately 900 people to attend each performance, Frye said in his email.

“The impact of live theater is immediate,” Frye said. “You can watch a television show, and some people will yell and scream at a TV screen, and it doesn’t change the product at all. But if you cheer [for] the people that are on stage, it enlivens them [and] it makes them better performers. There’s a synergy between audience and performers that’s there in live theatre that you don’t find anywhere else.”

Sophomore Jaclyn Hood is performing this year with women’s social club Pi Theta

Phi and men’s social clubs Theta and Gamma Sigma Phi. Hood originally planned to perform in this show last year, but was unable to after 2020’s Spring Sing was canceled. Hood said, while she still has some reservations, she is excited to have friends and family attend and to experience the show with a present, live audience.

“For our show, I feel like it will make us want to work even harder than we already are so we can bring our story even more to life,” Hood said. “I think because most of us are excited about it, I feel like it will bring us even closer together.”

The University typically has a live audience of nearly 12,000 people for Spring Sing, Frye said. This year, Harding will have about 3,600 audience members total.

Frye said he talked with the health department about opening Spring Sing to the public after the Harding administration requested the exploration of the possibility of an audience. Frye said he believed the

administration was interested in allowing families to see their children perform live.

Senior Valentino Warren, a Spring Sing director for men’s social club Omega Phi, expressed his excitement when he first saw the email announcing the live show. He said that he immediately called his parents, who were also excited about the opportunity to see their son’s show in person.

“When I heard the show was going to be live, I thought, ‘Yeah, we can pull this off,’” Warren said. “I think we are very much capable of making sure everyone comes to see the show very safe, if we follow our guidelines and keep everyone distanced. This shows our tenacity to keep moving forward even when we’re put against the wall with guidelines.”

Frye said this change will create more work for him and his team as there is now more planning involved for the show, though the arrangements will all be worth it.

The addition of a live audience will not impact the preparation process for social clubs as they are still required to follow the same COVID-19 protocols as before, Frye said. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, limited audience members and the option to livestream, this year’s performance will still be different.

“I’m excited about this year,” Frye said. “I think it’s going to be a fun show, and it’s going to be unlike any Spring Sing we have ever done. And I hope it’s unlike any Spring Sing we ever do in the future.”



Photo by **NAMON POPE**

Performers practice for Spring Sing in the George S. Benson Auditorium March 2.

# Pharmacy faculty, students administer Pfizer, Moderna vaccines on campus

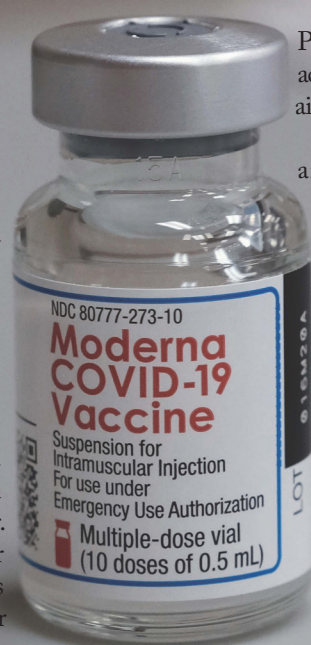
**RACHEL BIBLE**  
student writer

**KATELYN ALLEN**  
features editor

The College of Pharmacy administered both Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines throughout the spring semester to Harding faculty, staff and some students.

The College of Pharmacy originally received the Pfizer vaccines, which they administered at an on-campus clinic Jan. 18. Stotts Drug Co. administered Moderna vaccines on campus to health sciences students Jan. 15, according to Dr. Julie Hixson-Wallace, vice president for accreditation and institutional effectiveness and associate provost. Harding later administered the second doses of Moderna to that cohort Feb. 20 and 21.

The University partnered with Unity Hospital and Stotts Pharmacy for vaccine supply and also trained some College of



Pharmacy students to administer vaccines and aid on-campus clinics.

Both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines require two shots with a rest period in between the doses. The first shot is the primary dose, and the second is the booster. The Moderna vaccine requires 28 days in between doses, while the Pfizer requires 21 days.

Pfizer announced Feb. 25 they were beginning a trial, testing the potential effectiveness of a third dose. Additionally, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted emergency use authorization for

Johnson & Johnson single-shot COVID-19 vaccines Sunday, Feb. 28.

According to Hixson-Wallace, most of the vaccinations they have administered on campus have been Pfizer.

Hixson-Wallace, and others from the College of Pharmacy, have trained students in the program to administer the vaccine. All current second, third and fourth-year pharmacy students were licensed in order to help with vaccinations on campus. Second-year pharmacy student Emma Baird is among the students who volunteered to help administer the vaccine.

“Not only are Harding students administering the vaccine here on campus, but they are helping administer the vaccine throughout the Searcy community,” Baird said.

Baird was licensed by the Arkansas Board of Pharmacy in order to administer the vaccine.

The students who were licensed by the state applied online and participated in special training by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in order to learn how to

administer the vaccines. Mary Darden, director of student health services (SHS), aided the organization of the vaccine distribution and the student training.

“The College of Pharmacy worked diligently in preparing to become providers of the COVID vaccine,” Darden said.

The office of SHS and the College of Pharmacy worked together to provide the location and volunteers for the vaccination clinics to take place.

“Organizing and distributing the vaccine on campus has allowed me to experience first hand the team dynamic we are trying to teach here at Harding,” Hixson-Wallace said.

The College of Pharmacy looks forward to providing vaccinations to those outside of the Harding community, according to Hixson-Wallace. However, for now, the vaccinations are only offered to staff, faculty and some students.

Photo by **AUDREY JACKSON**

### In This Issue



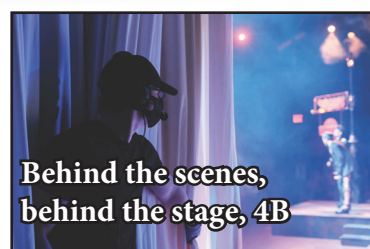
**BSA holds first talent showcase, 2A**



**Athletes test weekly for COVID-19, 1B**



**Students fundraise with shave-off, 4B**



**Behind the scenes, behind the stage, 4B**



# BSA hosts talent showcase to celebrate Black History Month

MAREN BONHAM  
student writer

The Black Student Association (BSA) hosted a talent showcase on Feb. 26 in the Administration Auditorium for the first time. The BSA wanted to demonstrate culture and background in celebration of Black History Month.

The talent showcase brought in many different forms of entertainment and art, including poetry readings, singing and dancing.

“One of my friends — Zelden Kool — I [brought] in [and] I know personally,” junior Trinity Peveler said. “We used to work in a pizza joint together in high school. He is an amazing poet and recently started traveling around sharing his talent, and the other person I [brought] in is a dancer. She [does] battle dances in Little Rock, and I know students at Harding have never seen this type of dancing before.”

Senior Jamica Gaither, BSA vice president, said they wanted the showcase to demonstrate both African American culture and unity.

“This talent show is to really celebrate our African American brothers and sisters,” Gaither said. “We want this time to be a snippet of our culture but at the same time showcasing unity between students and faculty.”

The Campus Activities Board (CAB) assisted with advertising for the BSA talent showcase.

“I would mainly just serve as a sounding board,” CAB director Logan Light said. “Trinity Peveler and her staff have done a lot of work, so I try to encourage them and help advertise. We offer as much support as we can as far as advertising around campus.”

Peveler said the event was successful with about 65 people attending the showcase.

“We had a couple of technical difficulties before the show started, but afterwards we had zero problems,” Peveler said. “The audience seemed to really enjoy themselves, and I’ve heard nothing but good things about the event.”

The overall goal of the BSA talent showcase was to celebrate Black history and help to educate the Harding community on Black culture, Peveler said.

“I feel like we reached our goal of celebrating

Black History Month by highlighting Black excellence on campus through the performing arts as well as integrating a Black history trivia game during the event,” Peveler said.

The BSA will continue to work on achieving this goal regardless of the end of Black History Month, Peveler said. In the coming months, the group will continue to plan events, including a movie night featuring “The Wiz,” a modern version of “The Wizard of Oz.”



Photos by AUDREY JACKSON

Zelden Kool (top) and instructor of Bible and ministry Jason Darden (bottom) perform at the Black Student Association talent showcase in the Administration Auditorium on Feb. 26. The showcase featured poetry reading, dancing, rapping and singing.

# HU Heal offers new classes, programs for the spring



SOPHIA TOTH  
student writer

Harding University Healthy Eating Active Living (HU HEAL) altered its program for the spring 2021 semester and also plans to offer one-on-one training sessions, an ambassador program and new fitness plans, as well as acquire an office for the organization.

Junior Natalie Bland, who is an HU HEAL ambassador, has been involved with the organization since her freshman year. With HU HEAL branching toward new fitness areas, Bland will be one of their personal trainers in the new one-on-one and buddy programs.

“Once we get our office, we will start those new programs,” Bland said. “Anyone involved in [HU HEAL] can do it, so we are looking for more ambassadors. Anybody involved can come and be a fitness buddy — completely up to you when you do it [and on a] volunteer basis — just so that people don’t have to work out alone.”

Plans to create an office space in the Ganus Activities Complex (GAC) will provide a place for people to sign up for classes, meet ambassadors and gather information to live a healthier lifestyle as a college student.

“I’m glad that there’s an organization that can give students ideas that are healthy and inform students on how to workout,” junior Allie Kuykendall said.

HU HEAL members are excited for their new offers and programs that will be offered once their space opens in the GAC.

“The biggest thing, in my opinion, is knowing that God loves you and your body exactly the way it is,” junior Lindsey Reece said. “The goal should be to be healthy [and] to glorify God by treating your body right. We also have fitness guides that will create a workout specifically for you to help you get started. They will show you step by step how to do everything.”

With a fun approach to healthy lifestyle changes, many students are engaging more with HU HEAL by attending classes and participating in their ambassador program.

Junior Morgan Ludke said that the friendly, inclusive environment and the passion the people involved have made fitness fun when she attended their sponsored Nooma class taught by HU HEAL ambassador Toni Montez.

Reece and Bland are excited about the new growth HU HEAL is experiencing and encourage students to reach out through social media to stay connected and build a healthy lifestyle in the Harding community.

Graphic by ISABELLE CUTTS





Cassidy Waldron  
Guest Writer

Church is a hot topic of conversation lately. Unfortunately, it seems to mostly be reasons to quit going. Because it doesn't fit one's ideal vision of what Jesus intended, some claim the solution is to turn away from the church altogether — to reject the community as a whole. People want to relegate church, arguing that having a personal relationship with God and loving others is enough to be an active member of the kingdom of God.

Scripture is clear that the church is an essential aspect of our faith. The church is described as the body of Christ, Christ's bride, God's temple and bought with Christ's blood. The church is our given, intended community of believers within which we bring glory to God and his kingdom. One common argument is that the church is an imperfect collection of sinners and is therefore inherently imperfect (and can be rejected). But that's not how the Bible refers to believers. In all of Paul's letters, he never once begins with, "Hello there, sinners." Rather, he addresses them as "holy people," despite the issues they wrestled with. Members of the church do sin — but it is not our identity. Calling the church a group of "sinners" puts it on the wrong side of the cross.

We should always seek to improve our community wherever we see its flaws.

However, we should not turn away from the church just because things are difficult. There might be situations in which leaving a particular congregation is necessary, but abandoning church forever is not. Silence and complacency are rarely, if ever, the solution. Instead, let's pour into our local church what is missing from it. We are not entitled to abandon it when the cracks show; it's our responsibility to see them, mend them and move forward. We simply can't say we love Christ and hate his body. You cannot look at your spouse and say you dearly love their head but will not love their body. You cannot claim to accept Christ and reject his bride. You can't have a healthy relationship with Jesus and refuse to go to church.

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**The church is our given, intended community of believers within which we bring glory to God and his kingdom.**  
— Cassidy Waldron,  
guest writer

It's not about you. It's not about me, either (thank goodness for that). That is why the gospel is "good news." It's a relief

— the pressure is off. Jesus makes up for our shortcomings. But we still tend to make things about ourselves. We turn God into our own personal version — one who is particularly judgmental about the things we hate and curiously merciful toward the things we're guilty of. We do the same thing with the church. We don't like the singing, the sermon, the class or the time, so we make it about us. But we are not the ultimate judges of righteousness. What we need is more humility, not self-righteous outrage. I'm not here to say who's getting saved and who's not. All I know is that scripture is clear that attending, participating in and promoting the church are all integral parts of being a faithful Christian. We cannot have one without the other. It's not that I think I know what's best — it's just what the Bible says. It's not about you or me. It's not about what "feels right." It's not about what is socially acceptable. Modernity often compels us to reject tradition, but this is a threat to our faith. It's the enemy's clever, shiny veil to obscure his efforts to keep us from salvation — which is only through Jesus Christ and his bride.

**CASSIDY WALDRON is a guest writer for The Bison. She may be contacted at cwaldron1@harding.edu.**



Let's talk about it  
Eric Johnson  
Opinions Editor

## The American dream revisited

The idea of the American dream is undeniably a foundational component of our national ethos. As residents in the land of opportunity, we are reminded constantly that, in America, the sky is the limit when it comes to economic and social opportunity. We pride ourselves on living in a country where any honest, hard worker can make a life for themselves and is not bound to the circumstances into which they were born. While it should be noted that the conditions for upward social mobility are increasingly restrictive and stifling, the individual liberty that Americans enjoy today, compared with the conditions of many other countries around the world, ought to be celebrated and cherished. Yet, I think this "American dream" mindset, like all other good things in life, can become toxic and dangerous when taken to unhealthy extremes.

The inevitable downfall that accompanies a relentless pursuit of the American dream is the basis for some of the most celebrated literature in our country's history, such as "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald and "An American Tragedy" by Theodore Dreiser. It has long been recognized that there are dangerous consequences that come to those who chase wealth and status obsessively. When the American dream mindset is embraced without reasonable caution, a common trajectory begins to form. It is an upside-down, v-shaped trajectory. It is a trajectory that represents one's constant pursuit for more — more money, more status, more power — that ultimately reaches an inflection point of destruction that flips the trajectory downward and toward ruin.

I find this idea of a life trajectory interesting. It reminds me of something I learned from Dr. Scott Adair's freshman Bible class. While discussing the Christology of Philippians 2, Adair drew a trajectory on the board that was meant to represent the life of Jesus. It was a trajectory that represented the self-emptying, sacrificial, outpouring love that defined Jesus' life and ministry. This downward trajectory of intentional humility reaches its inflection point at the cross, where the trend flips upward, as Jesus is exalted through resurrection.

I find this comparison interesting because the trajectory of Jesus happens to be the complete opposite trajectory of the American dream. Whereas the American dream is concerned with how much one can acquire for themselves, the trajectory of Jesus is one of self-outpouring. Whereas the American dream is rooted in selfish ambition, the trajectory of Jesus is rooted in selfless humility. Whereas the American dream often leads one to personal ruin, the trajectory of Jesus leads one to true joy and fulfillment.

We ought to ask ourselves what trajectory we are using our lives to pursue. Do we wish to be radical advocates of personal gain or radical advocates of selfless love? Do we care more about what we can get from the world or about what we can give? What good is it to gain the whole world just to lose your soul? Imagine with me what our country would look like if we all sought to pursue the trajectory of Jesus more passionately and courageously than we did the American dream.

There is nothing inherently wrong with economic liberty or the American dream. But we should recognize that our country has gone to immoral extents in terms of its life-sucking worship of profit. We ought to remind ourselves more of this trajectory of Jesus, and do what we can to better emulate his ultimate example of self-outpouring love.

**ERIC JOHNSON is the opinions editor for The Bison. He may be contacted at ejohnson7@harding.edu.**

## What's your opinion?

To have an opinion published in The Bison, contact the Opinions editor Eric Johnson at ejohnson7@harding.edu.



Madalyn Van Eaton  
Beat Reporter

Communication is the irreplaceable heartbeat of humanity. Its multifaceted nature enables us to all connect with one another on a variety of levels. We communicate through words, voice inflections, body language, facial expressions and numerous other avenues. The way you successfully communicate with one person may not work as well for another person, and I think that reveals a fascinating element of humanity. We all express ourselves and receive things in distinct ways. And yet, our communication is united by the common goal of connection and relationship.

Time spent with someone with whom you communicate well is invigorating and fulfilling. You understand their expressions, their unique methods of revealing how they feel and think, and they understand yours as well. There is profound peace in a relationship built around successful communication.

I am a verbal processor to my core, and I cherish those friends who I can deconstruct my thoughts and desires with. However, there are times in life that require silence; sometimes words run out, but you still need to be with someone. Silence can be

intimidating to me. If I have nothing to say, then what does that communicate about me? I used to believe that if I allowed silence to exist between me and another person, then our lack of connection was exposed. The more that my relationships have grown, I have realized this could not be farther from the truth. I realize that I feel closest to people who I do not always have to be actively communicating with.

“  
**Time spent with someone with whom you communicate well is invigorating and fulfilling.**  
— Madalyn Van Eaton,  
beat reporter

Taylor Swift, a lyrical genius and musician extraordinaire, reminds me of the profundity of silence between two people in her song "Peace," from her album "Folklore." She alludes to a number of things that she would give to someone,

then expresses, "Give you the silence that only comes when two people understand each other." Silence can be disheartening. It can manifest itself in a situation when two people do not understand each other, and have nothing else to say.

Silence can also be brilliant. I think it is a gift to feel secure in silence with someone; it is a gift to feel seen in the silence; it is a gift to understand the purpose of someone else's silence. Seek out the people who understand your silence. It is easy to overlook the people in your life who you can be silent with because they are so familiar to you. Maybe that person is your roommate who you see often, a family member or your closest friend. These people might not feel as exciting to be with as someone else, and so the silence you share with them appears mundane. The next time you are able to sit silently with someone and not feel alone, I want you to remind yourself of the goodness that exists when silence and understanding are simultaneously present in a relationship.

**MADALYN VAN EATON is a beat reporter for The Bison. She may be contacted at mvaneaton@harding.edu.**

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## guest contributors





Room to learn

Madison Scott  
Editor-in-Chief

Balancing act

There are a lot of things I am not very good at, like waking up with instant energy and enthusiasm, making my bed, or cooking a well-balanced meal for myself. Some people are so good at making conversation with strangers, keeping a smile on their face regardless of their circumstances, or maintaining a pleasant mood without four cups of coffee. These types of things are not easy for me — I have not yet acquired these skills. I look around and see people who effortlessly execute these tasks, and sometimes I wonder if qualities such as these can be improved or altered in a person, or if they are simply a part of our genetic makeup that we would be better off not trying to fix.

My dad, for instance, has this nearly-psychic way of knowing exactly what people will need in any given moment and is relentless in his pursuit to meet those needs, especially for those he cares for most. He is enthusiastic and encouraging, and you don't have to ask him twice for a helping hand. And my mother is benevolent, compassionate and never pretentious. She taught me to indulge in life's simple pleasures. She is quick to listen and slow to speak, and she is patient in completing life's daily tasks that make me want to pull my hair out (like folding my laundry in a timely manner or filling out paperwork).

Other people who I am close to, like my lifelong friends Grace and Kenzie, don't take themselves too seriously. They know how to make a celebration out of a normal Tuesday afternoon and never shy away from an opportunity to help heal a broken situation by doing so. Their friendship has taught me that no matter how challenging life gets, it is still important to laugh.

I deeply admire the people in my life who do not run out of stamina in pursuing that which they care about: My sister Olivia is incessantly hard-working, and no excuse ever seems good enough for her to slack on her disciplines and passions. Brynn, my best friend from home, holds similar strengths, and also has a superhuman emotional capacity to sit and feel and empathize with whatever people need her to. These are tremendous gifts and talents.

My friend Jordan carries energy and light through whatever doorway she passes. She is thoughtful and careful, while abundantly spunky and lively. People like Olivia and Austin are imaginative and pursue the monotony of each day with whimsy and gusto. Both Hailey and Rebecca make up for so many areas that I lack: Rebecca makes her bed before my alarm clock has even gone off and exerts more patience in a day than I probably will in my lifetime; Hailey wraps those she loves in so much comfort and warmth, and she can cook a meal without a recipe that would require an army of chefs for me.

When I am low, it is easy for these strengths in others to only make me more insecure in my weaknesses. It can persuade me to back away, convinced I will never be as good. However, during the days when I realize that not everything is about me, I can see how incredibly necessary it is that these people are in my life. And I can even become additionally thankful for their strengths, especially in light of my weaknesses.

I am grateful for these people who carry such wisdom and grace by simply living and walking and being. Because in living out their natural tendencies and dispositions, they are creating a wonderful balancing act, making up where I lack and pushing me to stretch and grow and be better than I was yesterday. May we, as imperfect and incomplete people, recognize the gift we have in others' strengths to ultimately sharpen and harmonize and invigorate our communities and surroundings.

And to the people in my life: Your existence in my world is a gift and a teacher, enabling me to have a fuller life and deeper relationships.

**MADISON SCOTT is the editor-in-chief for The Bison. She can be contacted at mscott9@harding.edu.**

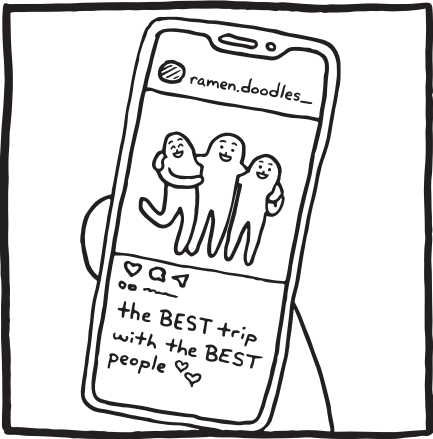
SPRING BREAK



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Jacob Taylor  
Guest Writer

I am sorry. Philosophers and philosophies have failed you. You have been let down by those who profess to know wisdom and follow it. You have been led astray by those who say or think they have the answers. We should be truly sorry and humbly repent for the sins of intellect. We have made grave errors in the foundation of the American and modern mind, and these are rooted in philosophies and vain deceits of the world.

But conversely, how would we live without the gift of intellect? We could, but we would not be human. Aristotle calls human beings rational animals. We are gifted with an insightful and active mind that surpasses all other creatures in quality, besides the spirits. God tells us in his story that we are more than animals and that we are destined to be the stewards of the kingdom of creation. We are called to a higher life in the Holy Spirit. That is, we are invited to use our gift of humanity, the intellect to be drawn "further up and further in" to the Triune God.

Saint Tertullian famously said, "What does Athens have to do with Jerusalem?" He meant, why care about philosophy when we have all the revelation we need in the narrative of Israel, Christ and the church? I appreciate the church's divorce from worldliness. That is one reason I love John's Gospel and Apocalypse.

And that is one reason I love Paul's letter to the Colossians, specifically 2:6-10. I pray that we would earnestly follow his teaching that says, "As you therefore have received

Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him, the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority."

“Unless we are willing to step into the waters of building a philosophy based on Christ, we will fail.”

— Jacob Taylor  
guest writer

We need philosophy, but not according to human or occult traditions. We need Christ. Philosophy should lead the human person to God. Philosophy is meant to be grounded and predicated on the revelation of the father in Christ. That means we are truly to be lovers of he who is wisdom. We are not called to be sophists, or those who are wise-ish. Christ called the church to be shrewd, wise and prudent discerners as well as innocent, loving and joyful peacemakers. But this work is impossible without the foundation of his life, death and resurrection.

While I love Tertullian's spirit, I disagree with its universal applicability. I do not support the stance of being anti-philosophy. One of the cardinal issues with the church in America has been anti-intellectualism. But I say that unless we know and love wisdom in Christ, we will lose the war to sophistic pretenders, wolves in sheep's clothing, tares among the wheat. All that is under the name of philosophy does not deserve the disdain and ignorance of Christians. It requires a discerning and loving mind of Christ to know who, what and where he is. This is impossible without acting together as his bride, the church.

Unless we are willing to step into the waters of building a philosophy based on Christ, we will fail. We cannot survive without our gift of intellect built on the spiritual life in Christ and his redemption of our humanity. We will not actually be able to make logical defenses based in reason and nature as well as Christ and the church. And internally, we will cease to act as proper human beings. God made us as dependent, intellectual creatures. God called us into Christ in the church. If we really comprehend and enact what that sentence means, we will be changed by the Spirit of God. So, I apologize for false philosophies, but I also contend that we need the true love of wisdom in Christ in order to be his church.

**JACOB TAYLOR is a guest writer for The Bison. He can be contacted at jtaylor15@harding.edu.**

Just the Clax  
Slide and seek



Michael Claxton  
Narrative Columnist

I've been in and out of doctors' offices several times over the past month, and the experience reminds me of one of the great fiascos of my childhood. I wish I could say that this incident happened when I was 4 years old and stupid, but I was actually 8 and had just entered a phase of clinical stupidity.

I was playing at my best friend's house that day. She lived across the street, and we had known each other for three or four years. If it seems unusual that my best friend was a girl, all I can say is that she was willing to put up with stupid men. Anyway, there was a patio in front of her house that had a brick wall around it about waist-high. The patio floor was covered with pebbles, and it was one of our favorite places to play.

On this particular afternoon — I think it was the Ides of March — someone had left a 2-by-4 leaning against the wall of the patio. Since this was before the Internet, a 2-by-4 was real entertainment. So, we incorporated it into our games. We used it as a ramp to race Matchbox cars. We crawled under it like it was a bridge. We even pretended we were pirates walking the plank. It was all epic fun. Eventually we ran out of things to do. But just when we were about to move on to something else, I came up with a brilliant idea. I thought about this 2-by-4 leaning diagonally against the wall, and I said, "Hey, this will make a neat slide."

Tonya didn't think this was such a good plan, which further convinced me that I

should do it. So, I climbed on top of the wall, sat on the end of the 2-by-4 with my feet straight in front, and let go. It wasn't quite as smooth a ride as I had imagined. I seem to remember bumping my way down and landing in the pebbles. Then I stood up. It was at that point I realized why slides are made of metal.

When I got to the hospital, they put me in the emergency room, lying on my stomach, and the only thing standing between me and complete indignity was a long strip of examination table paper. The nurse announced that I had a 7-and-a-half-inch splinter. I would tell you where it was, but that would involve vocabulary that was once edited out of "Finding Nemo" in the Benson Auditorium. I can say it set a record in Rockdale County for the longest piece of wood ever extracted from that particular area.

My parents came with me to the hospital, having received the phone call every mother dreads. Now, you'd expect parents to be supportive in a time like this. My father laughed through the whole thing. Tonya would have come to the hospital, but she got a little dizzy from laughing. Even the

nurses were snickering, which I'm sure must be a violation of some professional code somewhere.

It gets worse. In order to remove the splinter, the hospital had to call in a specialist from out of town. I never asked what kind of specialist he was. To this day, I don't want to know what kind of specialist he was. It took him 45 minutes to get there, which means I had 45 minutes to listen to dad's cheeky remarks. Eventually the doctor came, and I was comforted when he said he had performed this exact same procedure before. Until then I had visions of being written up in a medical textbook, or worse, being on the front cover of the Rockdale Citizen.

I'm happy to say that the operation was a success. They let us take home the splinter, which my father used to reinforce a leg on the dining room table. I sat a little lop-sided for the next three weeks, and sometimes to this day when I'm walking, I tilt a bit to the right. But I learned an important lesson: When a woman says, "That's not a good idea," I now at least consider listening.

*Dr. Claxton is still dealing with illness. A version of this column originally appeared 10 years ago in The Bison in 2011.*

**MICHAEL CLAXTON is a narrative columnist for The Bison. He can be contacted at mclaxto1@harding.edu.**





**Full Count**  
**Andrew Cicco**  
Head Sports Editor

## Journey of the name 'Braves'

I've been listening to a lot of classic rock lately. It gives me a nice, nostalgic rush. It's well-invited, too, with everything the world is throwing at us right now. It's important to hold the familiarity close during times of trouble.

I heard the legendary Bob Dylan cross COOL 104.7 the other day. The song was one with a message still relevant so many years later: "Times, They Are Changin'."

He's right, you know. I'm sure you do. He was right 56 years ago, and he's right today. It happens all around us, whether we notice it or not. Now, we're seeing the changes happen within Major League Baseball. It was only a matter of time, but things are going to be different.

The Cleveland Indians, one of baseball's oldest teams, is dropping the name "Indians" out of respect for Indigenous populations. A long-overdue change, yes, but one that still sent shockwaves throughout the MLB.

As we wait for the official change in Cleveland, the vast majority shifted their focus to a new team — a team that happens to be my favorite team. If you've been around me or seen me in person even once, you know how deeply I love the Atlanta Braves. As of right now, there are no plans to drop the name "Braves" from the team. I know the associated name of my beloved team isn't culturally appropriate. I'd be remiss, though, if I didn't let you know where the name "Braves" actually came from.

Spoiler alert: It wasn't after Native Americans. It was after politicians.

Let's travel back to the year 1912. Many years before Babe Ruth would start tattooing baseballs, James Gaffney purchased the team from William H. Russell — a team that was then called the "Rustlers." Gaffney, a member of Tammany Hall movement (a political organization that originated in New York City), adopted the logo from that of his party. Within Tammany Hall, the executives were known as the "chiefs," and the operatives were known as the "braves." Gaffney tied the hierarchy to the team he purchased, naming his "operatives" the Braves, and adopting the "Indian head" logo that was associated with the party. While that's not exactly politically correct today, and while the logo still directly comes from Native American culture, the Braves are making sure they're honoring the culture they're displaying.

It's also important to note that the Tammany Hall movement derived from Tamanend, a leader of the Lenape tribe. Their main goal was to "delight in all things Native American culture." Gaffney attempted to weave the culture within baseball, therefore, attempting to weave Native American culture within our culture.

Years later, times have changed and we see ourselves wanting to align with the appropriate representation of Native American culture. Now is as important a time as any to unify, so respecting the Native culture is as important as ever.

**"A long-overdue change, yes, but one that still sent shockwaves throughout the MLB."**

**-ANDREW CICCICO,**  
head sports editor

Following the large match in Atlanta two years ago that set off the larger powder keg in Cleveland, all eyes focused on the Atlanta Braves. They didn't buckle under the pressure or try to justify, though. Instead, they wanted to be a part of the solution, not the problem.

Right now, we see the Braves partnering with local Native American tribes, raising awareness and raising money for local tribes. They're small steps, mind you, but even the largest journeys begin with a single step.

**ANDREW CICCICO is the head sports editor for The Bison. He may be contacted at [acicco@harding.edu](mailto:acicco@harding.edu).**

## Athletes receive weekly COVID-19 testing



Photos by **NAMON POPE**

**Left: A baseball player uses a COVID-19 self-test swab at the Rhodes-Reaves Field House practice court on March 2. Right: A faculty member hands an athlete a self-test swab. Beginning in the spring, athletes tested for COVID-19 weekly.**

**BEN LANE**  
student writer

Harding student-athletes, coaches and athletic staff receive COVID-19 testing on a weekly basis by the athletic training staff — a process new to the spring semester.

The athletic training staff administer PCR nasal-swab tests every Tuesday in the Rhodes-Reaves Field House, and from there, the tests are packaged, labeled and transported to Baptist Health Medical Center in Little Rock, Arkansas, to obtain the results. Lacy Rush, an associate athletic trainer, has spearheaded the testing, coordinator of sports medicine Eric Myers said.

The process for athletic testing at Harding changed from the fall to spring semester. In the fall, athletes were subject to symptomatic testing in which they were only tested if they showed symptoms or were listed as a close contact. The testing was performed by Student Health Services or an off-campus testing site. Now, teams undergo surveillance testing carried out by athletic staff.

"All the staff is pitching in," Myers said. "Everybody follows up with their own teams that they cover and the cases they have on those teams."

The change was made because the Arkansas Department of Health provides free testing kits to Harding, and they work in conjunction with Baptist Health, which provides the lab services for free.

NCAA sports are classified into three different categories: low, medium and high contact risks. Sports like football, soccer and volleyball classify as high contact risks while golf, track and field, swimming, and other non-contact sports classify as low risk. Different testing processes are used for high risks compared to low and medium risks. In high-risk sports, testing is carried out for the entire team on a weekly basis if the sport is in season. At Harding, three high-risk sports are being played this semester — basketball, soccer and volleyball.

For low and medium-risk sports, the NCAA guidelines require 25% of the team to be tested every other week.

"To stay on our every week test, for the ones who are just doing the 25% of their roster, we do an eighth of their roster every week, and that gets us to the 25% every two weeks," Athletic Director and Head Men's Basketball Coach Jeff Morgan said.

Off-season sports are not subject to weekly tests. Instead of surveillance testing, they use symptomatic. Athletes are exempt from testing if they have contracted the virus within the last 150 days and are not showing symptoms.

The COVID-19 tests have added another layer of "stress," freshman men's basketball guard Stetson Smithson said. Smithson is one of four basketball players that has to be tested every week.

"Each time it's negative, you think [the next time you take the test], 'This will be the time that I'm positive,'" Smithson said. "You're just kind of thinking, 'This is the one,' and it's mentally wearing on you the longer it goes."



Photos by **NAMON POPE**

**Left: A member of the baseball team places a vial with a used swab into a biohazard bag. Right: A box of vials sits on a table at the Rhodes-Reaves Field House practice court. Completed tests are processed at Baptist Health in Little Rock for results.**

## HARDING UNIVERSITY'S AMERICAN STUDIES INSTITUTE DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES: TEMPLE GRANDIN

The Harding University American Studies Institute Distinguished Lecture Series will feature Temple Grandin, American doctor of animal science and bestselling author. The lecture titled "Developing Talents: Utilizing the Skills of Different Kinds of Minds" is at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 16, in the Benson Auditorium. Grandin's lecture highlights her own experience with autism spectrum disorders and her professional career. She speaks on how to nurture and turn talents and special interests into paid work, jobs that are particularly suited to individuals on the autism spectrum, and offers firsthand accounts of job experiences and advice from individuals representing a broad range of careers particularly suited for high-functioning individuals on the autism spectrum. The event will be open to the public followed by a book signing featuring Grandin's books. All

COVID-19 guidelines for social distancing and safety will be followed.

Designer of livestock handling facilities and professor of animal science at Colorado State University, Dr. Temple Grandin has designed facilities across the globe that are credited with reducing the animal stress during handling and improving animal welfare. She obtained her bachelor's at Franklin Pierce College, her master's in animal science at Arizona State University and her Ph.D. in animal science from the University of Illinois. She is a New York Times bestselling author and TED Talk lecturer. In 2010 Time Magazine named her one of the 100 most influential people, in 2017 she was inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame, and in 2018 she was made a fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.







# Harding Baseball digital team takes media presence to new heights

ELLIE SHELTON  
student writer

The Harding Baseball Instagram page gained over 700 new followers from fall 2020 to spring 2021, and continues to increase in followers every week.

While the page has only been around since January 2020, it has grown in popularity since then due to the digital media team's efforts.

Junior Cassie Cohu is in charge of events and game day experience for the baseball digital media team.

"We try and keep it up-to-date, exciting and fresh," Cohu said. "Taylor Sexton is head over our team, and she does an excellent job of making sure everything is done efficiently."

Cohu said that because their marketing team includes people with so many different talents, they are able to work together and mesh these talents nicely.

"We want the student body to be excited and feel like a part of Bison Baseball," Cohu said. "Harding is such a tight community, and getting the students and community involved can help build on this amazing program."

Junior Lauren Holloway is in charge of creating videos for the team's social media.

"I go to games and practices to capture plays by the Bisons, teamwork on the field, and help display the authentic hard work each player puts into the team," Holloway said. "I work with players [and] coaches and on the sidelines and in the dugouts. The team we have built to market the baseball organization here at Harding is amazing. We keep each other in check, have amazing communication, try to show up with our best material each time, and we make sure we praise everyone for their hard work."

Senior Taylor Sexton serves as the marketing team leader. This includes

managing the Instagram page, creating videos, taking pictures and helping out wherever she is needed.

"One of our assistant coaches created the marketing team the year before I joined and had some great ideas about how our social media presence could be improved," Sexton said. "With a lot of hard work, we've put our ideas into action. Our marketing team is full of passionate, hard-working individuals that have made this possible. Each one of us brings a different skill set to the team which makes us strong in multiple areas. The support from the coaching staff has been amazing, and the great guys on the team make this job extremely fun for us."

The media team finds it important to keep followers updated on what is happening, specifically that day or week, and aim to post practice and game photos the same day they are taken. Sophomore McKenna Oliver's job

is to get as much content as she can for the various media platforms.

"I work hard to go to everything I can because to me, a Monday morning workout is just as important as a Friday practice before the home opener," Oliver said. "It's important to me that our fanbase [knows] who the players are, whether they are a senior and [have] been here five years or a freshman."

In addition to posting the photos, Oliver said she also sends each player their photos individually so their friends and family can have them as well.

"The Harding Baseball family means so much to me, and I can't wait to see all of their hard work pay off this season," Oliver said. "Being out there is always the best part of my day. It doesn't matter how good or bad my day is — after taking pictures for them, I am always in a better mood."



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Graphic by ISABELLE CUTTS



## Players Only

Sydney Tabor  
Cross Country

"Players Only" is a special column written by Harding athletes. In this week's issue, Lady Bisons junior distance runner Sydney Tabor discusses how a forced pitstop created an enlightening moment of reflection.

"What you see is what you look for."

Over the weekend, Harding's cross country teams traveled to Oklahoma to compete in the long-awaited Great American Championship meet. After narrowly losing titles on both the men's and women's sides, we experienced yet another loss on the return trip: the use of our bus. What began as a flat tire quickly turned into a more serious complication. So there

we were, burdening the gas station parking lot in the middle-of-nowhere-Oklahoma.

Initially, our teams found the situation ironically funny. We spoke about how memories were being made, and it would be a story to share with future athletes and children, but as hours passed by, this perspective lost its effect. The chairs were cramped, the airflow was feeble at best, and even the skies decided to contribute with a donation of rain and dark clouds. The dismal bus scene was interrupted by frequent trips into the gas station to browse the snack aisles (again) and to talk to the two friendly regulars at the table near the door.

Becoming restless, I focused on the million things on my checklist as our only option was to make the best of the situation. We decided (with the heavy influence of our dead phones) to play games and ask new questions that strengthened our bonds as teammates and friends. A connection was forged with the two locals when they went

outstandingly out of their way to stay by our sides to offer assistance. Dinner became an opportunity to meet John, of John's Bar-B-Q, and to share a laugh about our situation and his gain from it. Well, that turned out to be mutually beneficial — the general consensus was that John's pork contended with that of Queen Memphis herself.

My mom used the term "divine appointments," which is the notion that God places people in our lives at the perfect time for a perfect reason. Often, we are so involved in the details of a situation and its inconveniences that we can't see the forest for the trees. I'm not saying that you should believe everything is good and you need to be happy all the time. Feeling sorry for yourself is normal and healthy. You must give yourself time for that. Feel what you feel. Sit in it. But then, take a deep breath and look out the window of your broken-down bus to see where you've landed and what exists for you there.

In Romans 8:28, we read, "In all things, God works for the good of those who love him." God promises that all things will come together for good. He doesn't necessarily ensure that everything will always be good. In fact, he tells us trials will come, but God uses them for good.

As our coach says, "Uncomfortable, painful and even hopeless circumstances are not always bad things." There's always a bigger purpose, and if you truly believe that obstacles will yield goodness, growth and opportunities, that is what you will find. You will use God's perfect timing to impact the people you encounter in a tight spot, and you might even be grateful it happened.

Athletes interested in writing a "Players Only" column may reach out to rgallagher1@harding.edu



## Spring Break Edition



Orlando Henley  
football



Jada Trice  
track and field



Caleb Nichols  
golf



Chloe Ingersoll  
volleyball



Sawyer Price  
baseball

Are you traveling anywhere over Spring Break?
What is your favorite activity to do over break?
Where is the most unique place you have traveled to?
Will we return to campus after Spring Break?

Valdosta, Georgia	Nashville, Tennessee	Hot Springs, Arkansas and Edmond, Oklahoma	Glen Rose, Texas	Undecided
Eating	Run on favorite trails back home	Hanging out with friends	Visiting mountains and relaxing	Snowboarding
British Virgin Islands	St. Kitts	Hawaii	Hungary	Lake Tahoe
I would hope so	I want to say yes	I hope so	Absolutely	I hope so



# Fashion transitions through COVID-19



**KATELYN ALLEN**  
features editor

**ELIZABETH DILLARD**  
student writer

Everyone has hobbies that provide a sense of comfort and stimulation, which often bring purpose to everyday life. Due to COVID-19, many people have been forced to set aside the activities they enjoy in order to stay home and protect others. While some everyday joys are not yet attainable, one hobby that has thrived through the pandemic is fashion. Many teenagers, college students and young adults showed their fashion taste throughout the pandemic at home on social media platforms like TikTok and Instagram, along with amateur stylists and fashion gurus. Similarly, many students at Harding found creative ways to express themselves through fashion and share their interests with others. Sophomore Bonnie Spann created an Instagram account called “Twice Vintage Thrifts,” where she sells thrifted clothes, accessories and home decor. Last year, Spann decided to thrift her entire wardrobe and find unique items for her friends. What started as a hobby turned into a small business utilizing social media. “Last year held many opportunities for me to focus inwardly on what makes me passionate,” Spann said. “I pushed myself to look at and listen to the things that make me happy without focusing on what others think. During that time, I realized that one of my hobbies — shopping — could be turned into an activity that does more than just serve myself.” Senior Brielle Hetherington also discovered

her love of second-hand clothing last year. Thrifting altered Hetherington’s mindset on what “cool” fashion could be, and she began to notice her personal style change. In a year, her style evolved from boho to edgy to grandma-style. “Style is all about who you are and finding ways to express that,” Hetherington said. “For me, fashion is a creative outlet. The process of finding pieces that represent me and creating an entire look from those items is so fun.” Fashion is not an interest or hobby exclusive to women. Men’s fashion has been evolving in the last year toward accommodating comfortability and function while pushing men to be outwardly expressive. Vogue magazine published an article about this idea and called for men to view fashion the same way women do, by expressing themselves through fashion instead of trying to fit into what they perceive as the norm. Senior Jared Heyen said he views men’s fashion as a way to express creativity. Heyen does not like to spend money on clothes and would rather take care of the articles of clothing he already owns. He has witnessed his personal style transition to a more grungy, thrifted look during his time at Harding, while incorporating items he wore back in high school. Heyen said he loves to integrate different color schemes into his everyday fashion choices, and he sees college as a great opportunity to experiment with his personal style. “In many ways, fashion is sort of an art form ... there’s a good mix of function, comfortability and creativity,” Heyen said. “For me, I look at college and this time of my life as the last time you’re a kid. Maybe you should be more accepting of experimentation

and trying new things ... seeing how you feel wearing certain things. I think some people are worried about what other people think.” Senior Brent Johnston said he gets his personal style inspiration from Harry Styles, A\$AP Rocky and Kanye West. Johnston sees fashion as a way to normalize his everyday life since the beginning of the pandemic. His style has changed from sneakers, baggy t-shirts and all-black outfits to baggy hoodies, jeans and slip on sandals. “Harry Styles was doing a cover shoot with Gucci a few seasons ago, and it tailored a lot of men’s fashion really well,” Johnston said. “It has a very classic look. I look at that with confidence and [think], ‘If he can do it, then anyone can do it.’ If you see someone like him wearing what they want and feeling comfortable in it, that’s just really cool.” A year filled with reflection and quarantine proved to bring confidence in fashion to so many people. Senior Raissa Ames decided she wanted to start wearing whatever made her feel more like herself. She began wearing unique pieces, like pink bell-bottom pants or shoulder-padded blazers. The limits and restrictions of last year pushed her to become more independent with her style choices. She continues to wear what makes her feel confident and does not conform to what others think, Ames said. “In a time that physical freedom was somewhat limited, expressing myself through the clothes that I wore helped me feel more content,” Ames said.



Photo by **AUDREY JACKSON**  
**Freshman Miles Burgess shaves freshman Ryan Lynn’s head for a fundraising event in the Hammon Student Center on Feb. 23. The idea for the “Shave-Off” started as a conversation between friends about unique ways to raise money.**

## Students fundraise with ‘Shave-Off’ event

**MADISON MEEKS**  
student writer

A group of Harding students raised over \$2,600 for Kibo Group by hosting an impromptu fundraising event, “Shave-Off,” last Tuesday, Feb. 23. Individual participants raised money by selecting a dollar amount they wished to raise, and if accomplished, they shaved their heads in return. All of the fundraised money went toward Kibo, a nonprofit

dedicated to supporting people in East Africa. The shave-off started as a dorm room conversation about unique ways to raise money, which led to sophomore Micah Gill reaching out to potential participants and making it happen. “This all started with a text that was a joke telling my friends I shaved my head, and we ran with it,” sophomore Cooper Moore said. “My friends agreed on an impulse saying they would shave their heads, too. This idea sparked Micah’s interest, and the discussion for raising money began.”

SEE SHAVE-OFF, PAGE 4B



# Much ado about backstage

SARA MCCLARAN  
student writer

While they rarely see the spotlight, the backstage workers for Harding’s theater productions are integral to the success of each show. With the theater department’s most recent production, “Much Ado About Nothing,” it is no different.

“If you ever watch a film, and you watch the credits at the end, you get about 50 or 60 actors, and you get about 2,000 people that are working behind the scenes — and the same is true for live theater,” director and chair of the theater department Steven Frye said.

Aside from the actors, there are students that work in the scene and costume shops, along with hair, makeup, lighting and sound.

“There’s about 20 people during the actual performance who are working, but there’s probably at least 50 people who have their hands on this show,” senior stage manager Kylie Coffey said.

This year has been particularly hard on the production crew because of COVID-19 restrictions.

“Our shops all have to be physically distant from each other, which reduces the number of crew that we can have in there working at a time, and that impacts how much we can do,” professor of theater Britton Lynn said. “We had a really limited time window with the crews to actually implement the design, which, when you’re planning, changes everything about your approach.”

Frye said that not everyone involved in the production was a theater major, either.

“Some of our performers are not theater majors [or] minors because all of our auditions are open to the campus community, and certainly that’s true of some of the people in

our shops — [they] are either minors or just interested in theater,” Frye said.

To become involved, all you have to do is contact the theater office or one of the shop foreman, Coffey said.

“If you are not a theater major or theater minor and you are interested, please come join us,” Coffey said. “We will welcome you with open arms.”

Even though the actors might get the spotlight, all parts of production have to work together to make a show successful.

“It brings so many different people with so many different skill sets and so many different points of view together.”

— Britton Lynn,  
professor of theater

“There’s always this good-natured ribbing and good-natured rivalry that happens between actors and technicians, but the fact of the matter is [that] live theater is not live theater without an actor, and so the technicians realize that they need the actor to complete their work, and the flip side is true,” Lynn said.

Lynn said one of his favorite parts of being a part of these productions is the various people he is able to know and work with.

“One of the reasons that I love doing what I do is that it brings so many different people who have so many different skill sets and so many different points of view together to do something that honestly couldn’t be done without everyone that’s there,” Lynn said.



Photos by AUDREY JACKSON

Junior Derrek Jones works backstage during a performance of “Much Ado About Nothing” in the Ulrey Performing Arts Center on Feb. 27. The production crew handled lighting, sound, makeup and stage transitions.

## SHAVE-OFF, CONTINUED

Soon after, shave-off graphics circulated social media, and the word spread among Harding students. Twenty students shaved their heads, reminding Harding that as a “community of mission,” it can change lives.

Gill said he is grateful for those who participated, and he encourages students to contribute by buying Midnight Oil coffee, as a portion of the profits go to Kibo.

“I am thrilled about how the event went,” Gill said. “I’m so grateful to everyone who gave and participated and shaved their heads. It was uplifting to see students come together, transcending cliques and clubs, in order to build community, build relationships and make a difference in the lives of others that they will never meet.”

Sophomore Drew Fowler participated in the shave-off and said the number of people who gave money was impressive. He also said an anonymous donor promised to match the money raised for Kibo missions.

“The shave-off turned out to be an incredible success,” Fowler said. “I was overwhelmed with how many people were willing to give

money to see their friends cut their hair for a good cause.”

Students can learn more about Kibo’s mission and ways to participate by visiting kibogroup.org.



Photos by AUDREY JACKSON

Freshman TJ Davidson participates in the “Shave-Off,” an impromptu fundraiser for Kibo Group held on Feb. 23 in the Hammon Student Center. The fundraiser raised over \$2,600 after garnering interest on social media.

Spring Break Playlist

Put Your Records On

Ritt Momney

03:29

Go Your Own Way

Fleetwood Mac

03:43

Party In The U.S.A.

Miley Cyrus

03:22

Fight For Your Right

Beastie Boys

03:28

Goodbye Earl

The Chicks

04:18

Here Comes The Sun

The Beatles

03:05

Good Kisser

Lake Street Dive

03:38

All Your'n

Tyler Childers

03:38

Playlist by EVERETT KIRKMAN